

# Cooperative Assessment Workshop

Department of the Interior  
Natural Resource Damage Assessment  
and Restoration Program

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June 9, 2004

# Cooperative Assessment Workshop

- Mission Statement
  - The mission of the DOI Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program is to restore natural resources injured as a result of oil spills or hazardous substance releases into the environment. In partnership with other affected State, Tribal, and Federal trustee agencies, damage assessments provide the basis for determining the restoration needs that address the public's loss and use of these resources.

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- Program Objective: Increase Habitat Acres and Miles Restored
  - Support DOI Strategic Plan
    - Resource Protection/Biological Communities
  - Conservation through Communication, Consultation, and Cooperation
  - Five trustee bureaus with unique resources and expertise

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- According to Webster
  - Cooperative: working or acting together toward a common end or purpose
  - Assessment: the act of evaluating, appraising [resource damage and injury]

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- One more from Webster
  - Partnership: a relationship of equal status and a certain independence, but with implicit or formal obligations to others

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- Challenges:
  - Reaching a shared vision among parties
    - Co-Trustees
    - PRPs

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DOI family tree



NOAA family tree

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- "Honest disagreement is often a good sign of progress." - Mahatma Gandhi
- "If you can find something everyone agrees on, it's wrong." - Mo Udall

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- Further Challenges:
  - Solving CERCLA complexity
    - Multiple contaminants of concern
    - Duration of hazardous substance release
    - Multiple PRPs
  - Respecting institutional constraints

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- OPA Cases
  - PEPCO/Chalk Point Oil Spill, MD - settled
  - Suisin Marsh Pipeline, CA
  - Bouchard Barge 120 (Buzzards Bay), MA
  - Sanborn Pond, ME
  - M/V Kure, CA

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- CERCLA Cases – Ongoing
  - St. Lawrence River, NY
  - Upper Arkansas River, CO
  - Southeast Idaho Selenium, ID
- Cooperative Restoration Activities
  - Saginaw Bay, MI
  - Ft. Wayne Reduction Site, IN
  - Applied Environmental Services/Shore Realty, NY

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- Where Are We Going From Here?
  - FACA Committee
    - Address administrative reform for the program
  - Improved Working Relationships
    - Co-trustees, NGOs, Industry, Academics
  - Tools for Practitioners
    - Policies, Handbooks, Technical Direction

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## A Sign of Changing Times

Working in partnership with local communities, industry, State governments, Tribes, and other Federal Trustees, we are restoring injured natural resources across the country



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- "Never ascribe to an opponent motives meaner than your own." - John M. Barrie
- "Trust but verify." - Ronald Reagan